#### Case 2:12-cv-02304-RB Document 1 Filed 04/27/12 Page 1 of 11

SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS							
KATHLEEN HERMAN				NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.						
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff			County of Residence	ce of Fi	irst List	ted Defendant			
• •	me, Address, Telephone N	lumber and Email Add	iress)	1			INATION CASES, U	SE THE LOCAT	TION OF T	ΉE
Craig Thor Kimmel, E				LAN	ND INV	OLVED	<b>.</b>			
Kimmel & Silverman, 30 E. Butler Pike	P.C.			Attorneys (If Known)						
Ambler, PA 19002			-							
(215) 540-8888			4							
II. BASIS OF JURISI	DICTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)	III. C	TIZENSHIP OF	FPRI	NCIP	AL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in	One Box f	or Plaintiff
☐ 1 U.S. Government	■ 3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases Onl	ly) <b>PTF</b>	DEF		and One Box	for Defend PTF	lant) DEF
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government	Not a Party)	Citiz	en of This State		. 🗇 1	Incorporated or Proof Business In Thi		<b>1</b> 4	Ü 4
☐ 2 U.S. Government	☐ 4 Diversity		Citiz	en of Another State	<b>1</b> 2	σ:	2 Incorporated and I	Principal Place	□ 5	□ 5
Defendant	(Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)					of Business In	Another State		
	•			en or Subject of a reign Country	<b>3</b>	0 3	B Foreign Nation		□ 6	□ 6
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☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 315 Airplane Product	Med. Malpractic	e □ 62	5 Drug Related Seizure		28	USC 157	430 Banks	and Banki	ng
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability  ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	☐ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability		of Property 21 USC 88 0 Liquor Laws		PROP	ERTY RIGHTS	☐ 450 Comn  3 ☐ 460 Depor		
& Enforcement of Judgment	Slander	368 Asbestos Persona	al 🗍 64	0 R.R. & Truck		820 Co	pyrights	☐ 470 Racket	teer Influe	
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(Excl. Veterans)	345 Marine Product	☐ 370 Other Fraud		0 Other	080V660 ASSES	COOK	TWO FACTOR HETSEN	☐ 810 Select		
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	Cite the U.S. Civil Str	atute under which you a I ION 1692	re filing (	Do not cite jurisdicti	onal st	atutes	unless diversity):		<b>M</b>	
VI, CAUSE OF ACTI	Brief description of ca	ause: ction Practices A	ct							
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND \$			CHECK YES only	_7	n complai	
			-		•					
VIII. RELATED CAS	(See instructions):	JUDGE				DOCK	ET NUMBER	•		
Explanation:		<del></del>			_					
***************************************			<u> </u>							
DATE		SIGNATURE O	F ATTO	RNEY OF RECORD	•					
04/27/2012		/s/ Craig Tho	or Kimm	nel						

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## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

KATHLEEN HE	RMAN	: CIVIL ACTION	
,	V.	•	
NCO FINANCIA	L SYSTEMS, INC.	: NO.	
plaintiff shall com filing the complair side of this form. designation, that d plaintiff and all oth that defendant beli	plete a Case Management Trant and serve a copy on all defer ) In the event that a defend efendant shall, with its first apper parties, a Case Managemen leves the case should be assign		time of reverse ng said e on the
SELECT ONE O	F THE FOLLOWING CAS	E MANAGEMENT TRACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus	s – Cases brought under 28 U.	S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.	( )
	y – Cases requesting review of ervices denying plaintiff Social	a decision of the Secretary of Health Security Benefits.	( )
(c) Arbitration – (	Cases required to be designated	d for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	(X)
(d) Asbestos – Ca exposure to as		nal injury or property damage from	( )
commonly refe	erred to as complex and that ne	l into tracks (a) through (d) that are eed special or intense management by a detailed explanation of special	
management c	-	a dotation explanation of special	( )
(f) Standard Mana	agement – Cases that do not fa	all into any one of the other tracks.	( )
64 27 112 Date	Craig Thor Kimmel Attorney-at-law	<u>Plaintiff, Kathleen Herman</u> Attorney for	
215-540-8888 Telephone	<u>215-540-8817</u> FAX Number	kimmel@creditlaw.com E-Mail Address	

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#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to appropriate calendar.	used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of		
Address of Plaintiff: 411 Main St., Castalia OH 44824			
Address of Defendant: 407 Prudential Ra, Hors	ham PA 19044		
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: (Use Reverse Side For Ad	ditional Space)		
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and	d any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?  Yes No No No.		
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	I C2 I/O		
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	YcsD No		
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:			
Case Number: Judge	_ Date Terminated:		
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:			
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year			
	Yes□ No <b>X</b>		
<ol><li>Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior su action in this court?</li></ol>	it pending or within one year previously terminated		
	Yes□ No♥		
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier nu			
terminated action in this court?	Yes□ No No		
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights	case filed by the same individual?		
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Ycs□ No No		
CIVIL: (Place in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)  A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:		
1. ☐ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts		
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury		
3. D Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation		
4. □ Antitrust	4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury		
5. D Patent	5. □ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury		
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please		
	specify)		
7. □ Civil Rights	7. □ Products Liability		
8. □ Habeas Corpus	8.   Products Liability — Asbestos		
9.   Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases		
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)		
11. All other Federal Question Cases   SV.S.C. & 160			
(Please specify)	ETCATION		
ARBITRATION CERTIL			
I, Craig Thor Hmmel, counsel of record do hereby certify			
☐ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and b \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	effer, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of		
☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.			
04/27/12 /S/CMIOThorking	mal 57100		
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#		
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there	e has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.		
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or w	vithin one year previously terminated action in this court		
except as noted above.			
04/27/12 /c/amiathor kin	nmed 57100		
Attorncy-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#		

CIV. 609 (6/08)

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 FOR THE 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 KATHLEEN HERMAN, 4 Plaintiff Case No.: 5 v. COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR 6 NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., JURY TRIAL 7 (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) Defendant 8 **COMPLAINT** 9 KATHLEEN HERMAN ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, KIMMEL & 10 SILVERMAN, P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., 11 12 ("Defendant"): 13 INTRODUCTION 14 Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 1. 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"). 16 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 17 Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states 2. 18 that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court 19 without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original 20 jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. 21 3. Defendant conducts business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; therefore, 22 personal jurisdiction is established. 23 Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1). 24 4. 25

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#### **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Castalia, Ohio 44824.
- 6. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
- 7. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044.
- 8. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 9. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 10. At all relevant times, Defendant was attempting to collect an alleged consumer debt from Plaintiff.
- 11. The alleged debt at issue, a student loan, arose out of transactions, which were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 12. Beginning in December 2011, and continuing through February 2012, Defendant contacted Plaintiff on a repetitive and continuous basis in its attempt to collect this debt.
- 13. Plaintiff regularly received collection calls from the following telephone number: (800) 448-9570, which the undersigned has confirmed is a telephone number belonging to Defendant.
- 14. Defendant used the quantity and pattern of its collection calls to Plaintiff as a means of harassing her.
  - 15. When contacting Plaintiff, Defendant called her almost every day.

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- 16. For example, in December, Defendant called Plaintiff on the following days: December 4, 2011; December 5, 2011; December 7, 2011; December 10, 2011; December 13, 2011; December 15, 2011; December 19, 2011; December 21, 2011; December 23, 2011; December 29, 2011, and December 30, 2011. See Exhibit A, Plaintiff's phone records.
- 17. Then, in January 2012, seeing that Plaintiff had not made payment in response to its repetitive collection calls, Defendant increased the volume of its calls to Plaintiff.
- 18. Defendant called Plaintiff on the following days: January 3, 2012; January 5, 2012; January 9, 2012; January 10, 2012; January 11, 2012; January 12, 2012; January 13, 2012; January 14, 2012; January 16, 2012; January 17, 2012; January 18, 2012; January 19, 2012; January 20, 2012; January 21, 2012; January 23, 2012; January 24, 2012; January 25, 2012; January 26, 2012; January 27, 2012; January 30, 2012; and January 31, 2012. See Exhibit A.
- 19. In addition to calling her almost every day, Defendant contacted Plaintiff multiple times in the same day.
- 20. For example, Defendant called Plaintiff multiple times on the following days: January 12, 2012; January 16, 2012; January 17, 2012; January 19, 2012; January 20, 2012; January 21, 2012; January 30, 2012; and January 31, 2012. See Exhibit A.
- Then, in February 2012, Defendant contacted Plaintiff on February 1, 2012; February 2, 2012; February 3, 2012 (multiple times); February 6, 2012; February 7, 2012; February 8, 2012 (multiple times); February 9, 2012; February 10, 2012; February 11, 2012; February 13, 2012 (multiple times); February 14, 2012; and February 15, 2012. See Exhibit A.
- 22. Upon information and belief, Defendant contacted Plaintiff at other times and on other days in its attempts to collect a debt.

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- 23. When Plaintiff did speak with Defendant in January 2012, its collector deceptively claimed to her that Defendant would garnish her wages if she did not pay the alleged debt, in order to create a sense of urgency which would cause Plaintiff to make a payment.
- 24. To date, despite Plaintiff not having made a payment on the alleged debt, Defendant has not garnished her wages.
- 25. In addition to its continuous and repeated telephone calls to Plaintiff, Defendant also left voicemail messages on her answering machine informing Plaintiff that "NCO Financial" was calling and requesting that she call them back.
- 26. Because Defendant left the messages on Plaintiff's home answering machine, her son heard the messages.
- 27. Her son would ask her why Defendant was calling and got upset that she was receiving so many calls from the same entity.
- 28. Upon information and belief, Defendant called Plaintiff on a repetitive and continuous basis with the intent of harassing Plaintiff into paying this debt.
- 29. Also, Defendant contacted Plaintiff's parents claiming to be calling to obtain a phone number for Plaintiff; however, upon information and belief, at the time Defendant contacted Plaintiff's parents, it already had a valid telephone for Plaintiff.
- 30. Further, in its attempts to collect a debt, on or about December 2, 2011, Defendant sent Plaintiff correspondence seeking and demanding payment of an alleged debt. See Exhibit B, Defendant's December 2, 2011, Letter to Plaintiff.
- 31. In it letter, Defendant included a "RE:" section, presumably to inform Plaintiff about the purpose of its letter. See Exhibit B.

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- 32. In this section, Defendant listed "School Name:" and "Lender Name:"; however, it failed to identify a "School Name" or "Lender Name," making it impossible for Plaintiff to determine what school or lender this debt relates to. See Exhibit B.
- 33. Furthermore, in its letter to Plaintiff, Defendant advised Plaintiff that the guarantor, American Student Assistance, assigned a defaulted loan(s) to Defendant for collection. See Exhibit B.
- 34. In the second paragraph of its letter, Defendant told Plaintiff that "to resolve this delinquency," contact her account representative. See Exhibit B.
- 35. Defendant's use of the terms "default" and "delinquency" was confusing and misleading to Plaintiff.
- 36. The terms "default" and "delinquency" have separate and distinct meanings when used to describe the status of a student loan.
- 37. Defendant used the terms interchangeably to confuse Plaintiff, hoping that to do would cause Plaintiff to make payment on the student loan.

# DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT COUNT I

- 38. Defendant's conduct, detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. §§1692d and 1692d(5).
  - a. A debt collector violates §1692d of the FDCPA by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt.
  - b. Section 1692d(5) of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from causing a telephone to ring or engaging any person in telephone conversation

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repeatedly or continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass any person at the called number.

c. Here, Defendant violated §§1692d and 1692d(5) of the FDCPA when it called Plaintiff almost everyday, calling her multiple times a day, over several months, with the intent to annoy, harass and abuse her.

#### **COUNT II**

- 39. Defendant's conduct, detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. §§1692e and 1692e(4).
  - a. A debt collector violates §1692e of the FDCPA by using false, deceptive, or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
  - b. A debt collector violates §1692e(4) of the FDCPA by representing or implicating that nonpayment of any debt will result in the arrest or imprisonment of any person or the seizure, garnishment, attachment, or sale of any property or wages of any person unless such action is lawful and the debt collector or creditor intends to take such action.
  - c. Here, Defendant violated §1692e of the FDCPA when it mislead about the current status of her student loan, by describing it as being in default, but then asking her to contact it about in order to resolve the delinquency.
  - d. Further, Defendant violated §§1692e and 1692e(4) of the FDCPA by deceptively claiming that it would garnish her wages if she did not make payment on the alleged debt, when Defendant did not intend to garnish her wages and/or did not have authority from the guarantor to garnish wages.

- 40. Defendant's conduct, detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. \$1692f.
  - a. A debt collector violates §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.
  - b. Here, Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA engaging in other unfair and unconscionable debt collection practices, including repeatedly leaving messages on her home answering machine that could be heard by all members of her household, including her minor son; calling her parents in its attempts to collect a debt; and not providing her with the name of the school and the lender name in its communications with Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, KATHLEEN HERMAN, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutor y damages of \$1,000.00 for the violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

#### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, KATHLEEN HERMAN, demands a jury trial in this case.

### 

1		RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
2	DATED: 04/27/2012	KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.
3		By: <u>/s/ Craig Thor Kimmel</u> CRAIG THOR KIMMEL
4		Attorney ID # 57100
5		Kimmel & Silverman, P.C. 30 E. Butler Pike
6	3	Ambler, PA 19002 Phone: (215) 540-8888
7		Fax: (877) 788-2864 Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com
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